

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://lamplighter.cooperyoung.org/>. The page features a navigation menu with 'Home' and 'About' links, and a search bar. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- inbalance FITNESS** logo with the tagline 'Passionately promoting healthy lifestyles'.
- Chillin' with Chili** article by Patrick, dated January 25, 2010. The article describes the 3rd Annual Cooper-Young Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 27th.
- The Mod Squad** article by Patrick, dated January 25, 2010. The article discusses the Midtown Overlay District (MOD) and the Memphis Regional Design Center (MRDC).
- Skate Expectations** article by Patrick, dated January 24, 2010. The article discusses the Memphis Roller Derby (MRD) seeking a new home in Midtown.

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Tags' section with categories like 'Monthly' and 'Authors'. Below that is a 'Welcome Patrick' section with links for 'Dashboard', 'Profile', and 'Logout'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Connect with Facebook' button.

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Save this issue! Insider's Guide to CY



COOPER-YOUNG CONNECTED

LampLighter goes online this month

BY PATRICK MILLER

This month, there are some changes happening in the ways that we communicate with and keep you informed. For years, Cooper-Youngians have kept abreast of what's going on in their neighborhood in the usual ways; over the fence, conversations at local establishments, nights out, and, of course, the *LampLighter* newspaper, still hand delivered once per month for free. This paper has been a constant in this community for a long time, keeping folks informed about their neighborhood and its relationship to greater Memphis, showcasing music and the arts and artisans, supporting local businesses and restaurants, and all written (and mostly published) by volunteers from Cooper-Young. In February, the *LampLighter* reaches a big milestone; it's going online! As is tradition, February will be our first issue in 2010, and our first online issue ever, but more than just an online edition of the printed paper, the "wired" edition will provide constantly changing information and dialogue on a day-to-day basis to a potentially even larger audience than the paper can ever hope to reach.

In addition, as a part of bringing the *LampLighter* online, we've added some new fun and useful features to the Cooper-Young website, as well. Read on for more...

What is the *LampLighter* online all about?

The entire contents of the printed *LampLighter* newspaper will be available online either at or before the distribution of the paper version. An electronic version (PDF format) of the printed paper will also always be available via both the *LampLighter* and the CYCA websites. However, the online edition will not just be a digital mirror image of the printed paper; it will be much more. With the *LampLighter* online, we will be introducing a number of new things online that will provide a more dynamic experience and more interactivity. There will be additional types of content added to the online edition, ways for

Continued on page 9



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

CY needs your thoughts on present challenges for future successes

Thanks for your service

I want to take a moment to thank Robert Grisham for his service on the Cooper-Young Board of Directors. He has been very consistent in his message that community is the key to

making Cooper-Young a home, not just a subdivision. As we will miss him at our meetings, I am sure he will still continue with this message, and we will definitely be seeing him around.

Also, I want to welcome Susan Currier to our Board of Directors. She has been in the neighborhood for a while now and has worked with our CY Parent's Network and Block Clubs, and she is ready to see what she can do to make CY even better. She brings some experience with nonprofits and grant writing to the table. Welcome aboard, Susan!

Back to Basics in 2010

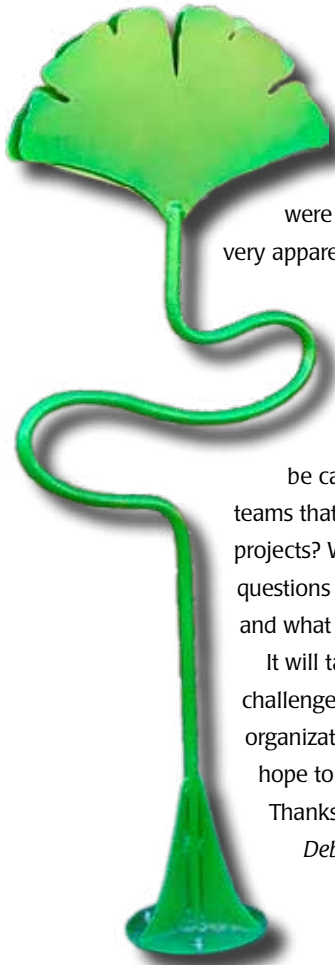
CYCA was started in 1976; started from a group of residents wanting to take their neighborhood back from decay and blight. We still have some of the same challenges but with different twists and some additional goals and needs. Based on the survey that many of you were kind enough to take on our website this month, these are very apparent (results are posted on www.cooperyoung.org if you want to view them). We do need to get down to the basics. We will be working to improve many of these but cannot do it without you. It is going to take a small effort on all of our parts.

Over the next couple of months, members of our board will be calling on you personally to get your help on a number of teams that are to work on some of these issues. More beautification projects? Work on safety issues? Code Enforcement? We will be asking questions about what you as residents want to see in our boundaries and what together we are willing to do to handle these objectives.

It will take a little work from all of us. Are you ready for the challenge? Will you take on your small part? We are working on some organization skills that will help us all work together effectively and hope to have some clear roles and expectations of what we need.

Thanks, in advance, for your help.

Debbie Sowell



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The *LampLighter* is published by the CYCA. The opinions and information presented here are those of the staff and volunteers of the *LampLighter* and do not necessarily reflect the entire Cooper-Young community. The *LampLighter* assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. However, we commit ourselves to providing current and accurate information.

inside

6 CY preps for a greener year as energy efficiency competition debuts

It's officially time to begin the competition between the Cooper-Young and Evergreen districts to see who lives "greener" in the New Year. Read more about how you can participate.

11 Insider's Guide to CY

Ever wonder where you could find a nearby photographer? How about a music store that's within walking distance? Get all the information you might need about our neighborhood businesses, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and websites.

18 Supporters see Midtown Overlay District as a stabilizing force

The future of certain sections of Midtown may soon be determined with the development of the Midtown Overlay District Plan. With the implementation of new ideas, such as new zoning requirements, Midtown Memphis may have more vitality and stability.

All of these articles and more will be published online each month at <http://LampLighter.cooperyoung.org>. Don't forget to register!

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Deadlines for the March LampLighter

Articles, submissions: February 15th
Advertising copy: February 20th
Distribution beginning: February 26th
Please send all articles and submissions to lamplighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

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CYCA
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CYBA
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901-276-7222
cyba@bellsouth.net

CYDC
Sutton Mora Hayes
901-272-1459
sutton_cydc@bellsouth.net

Meetings & Dates

CYCA General Meeting

Tuesday, February 9th, 6 pm
Refreshments, meeting begins at 6:30 pm
Local artist, Carl Moore, will present his design concept for the McLean underpass mural project. Please come and give us your input.

CY Chili Contest

Saturday, February 27th, 12-2 pm
Peabody School Cafeteria
See article on page 9 for details.



Save the Dates

Artists' Reception

Sunday, March 28th, 4-6 pm
Otherlands Coffee Bar

Art for Art's Sake Auction

Saturday, April 10th, 6-9:30 pm
Young Avenue Deli
Tickets are \$20 each or \$15 for CYCA members
Refreshments and bidding rights in the silent and live Auction

CYCA Community Director

Maggie Cardwell

CYCA Board Officers

President	Debbie Sowell
Vice-President	John Kinsey
Secretary	Andy Ashby
Treasurer	Jason Word

CYCA Committee Heads

Ad Hoc	Shelley Thomas
Beautification	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	Ginger Spickler
Code Awareness	Sharron Johnson
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety Education	Kyle Gowen
Membership	John Kinsey
Volunteer Council	Debbie Sowell

At-Large Board Members

June Hurt
Susan Currier

A RUN WELL DONE

Cooper-Young proudly assisted the St. Jude Marathon

Once again, the St. Jude Marathon was a great success and the Cooper-Young mile marker 18 was, too. This is my third year as the Water Station Captain, and the number of volunteers that participate from Cooper-Young and adjacent neighborhoods still amazes me. Runners, residents, and volunteers commented on our level of energy, participation, and cleanliness, as well as entertainment from the Memphis Drum Shop—a real treat! Thanks to all for making this special event a great success!

Carla Cartwright



OPINIONS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Drum Shop has plans on Blythe

To our Cooper-Young Neighbors:

This is to let you know that I have recently purchased the property at 877, 883, and 885 Blythe Street. We plan to improve the value and appearance of the property with landscaping and improvements to the existing buildings. Plans are for the 877 Blythe church building to be used as an in-house recording/student studio, storage area, and single-family rental of the upstairs apartment. The 883 Blythe house will continue to be a single-family rental with the adjacent 885 Blythe property continuing to be parking area. Special events, limited to no more than three (3) times per year, might require the use of a temporary tent(s).

The 877 Blythe church building is currently being rented by the Salvation Army and is being used as a church and office space. The lease expires on September 30, 2011. They plan to have the new Kroc Center that is being built at Central and East Parkway completed by the spring or summer of 2011 and may move before the lease is completed.

We plan to remove the traffic that would be from our property to Blythe Street with the landscaping which will include a gate at the current entrance off Blythe Street. Church building, upstairs apartment, or rental house traffic and Memphis Drum Shop employees will enter and exit via the alley between the church building and Memphis Drum Shop. We are very excited about the Kroc center and what it will do for Memphis and, particularly, our neighborhood.

Memphis Drum Shop has enjoyed being a part of the Cooper-Young neighborhood since 1991. We have strived to be a good business neighbor, a contributing factor, and an asset to the community. We believe our plans for Blythe Street will enhance the image that both Memphis Drum Shop and the Cooper-Young neighborhood seek to promote.

If you have any comments or questions, please forward them to 878 South Cooper. We look forward to many more years of being your neighbor in Cooper-Young.

Sincerely,

Jim Pettit

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

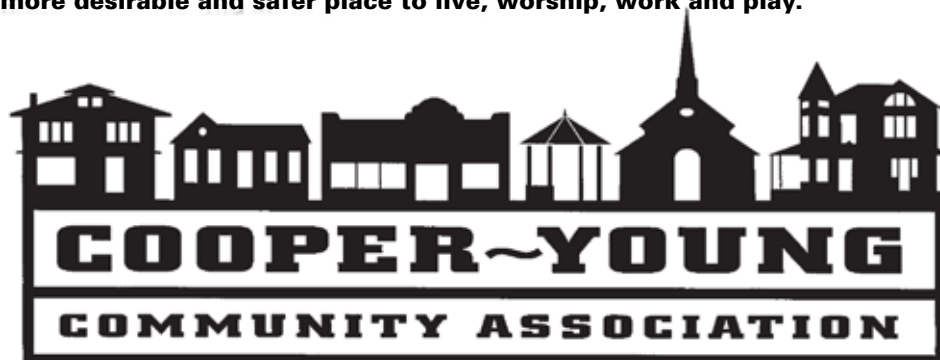
Build Memphis up, not out, with a Midtown Overlay District

As an architect, I wholeheartedly embrace the evolution of our built environments—when handled properly. I would much rather see Memphis focus on infill than recklessly continue her century-old tradition of white flight and eastern sprawl. As such, I applaud the efforts of the groups working to create a Midtown Overlay District and encourage everyone to add their voices, concerns, and energies to this tremendous undertaking. We have all seen the devastation caused by thoughtless out-of-town or corporate developers when left to their own devices. (Walgreen's, in particular, comes to mind.) While nothing can replace what has already been lost, this ordinance is a tremendous step forward in protecting—and enhancing—the integrity of what remains.

Aaron James

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Mission Our purpose is to form an association of residents and interested parties to work together to make our diverse and historic community a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work and play.



Enclosed is a check for my membership in the Cooper-Young Community Association

- New
 Renewing
 Household – \$20
 Trestle Tender – \$50
 Senior 55 and older – \$5

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I want to hear about volunteer opportunities

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

in honor or/in memory of _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for the General Operating Fund

Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

You can also join online at www.cooperyoung.org. The CYCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR EMAIL ALERTS ON SAFETY, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEERING? SIGN UP @ COOPERYOUNG.ORG

Happy days and helpful ways shared straight from the CYCA office

BY MAGGIE CARDWELL

Often I am asked, "So what do you all do?" It is hard to know where to begin to explain all that is done at the CYCA office. I am in the office at 2298 Young Avenue where you can stop by and ask questions. I answer your phone calls, letters, and emails. I may not always have the answer you want, but I can usually point you in the direction of someone who can. I am here for our members, and I help our volunteer board of directors and committee members organize meetings and events like the Art for Art's Sake Auction, Friday Festival 4-Miler, and alley clean-ups. Below are some of the things keeping us busy. Each issue, I will try and tell you a little more about what we do and hopefully you will find a way to join in on the fun.

Holiday Party and snack bags

A lot were unable to make the CYCA Christmas party due to the weather, and we are sorry you had to miss it. I would like to thank Whitney Jo for making the Playhouse on the Square available to us and Joe Beasley, along with his staff, for making it a wonderful holiday experience. Playhouse on the Square has long been a community advocate and continues to offer to us the rare gift of exceptional entertainment at our doorstep.

The old year does not end for me until the last goody police and firefighter bag is filled on Christmas Eve. Our volunteers have been doing it so long, they do not remember when this tradition began. We all marvel at the shopping, baking, packaging, and thought put into preparing 70 of anything. Thank you, Eclectic Eye, for providing the bags to fill again this year.

One of my 6-year-old grandsons came with me to help that evening. He lives in a very small town in Virginia with one police car and a volunteer fire department. He hears the trains, planes, and sirens in Memphis that we all ignore. He was so pleased with himself when we got home that evening that he had help to do this marvelous thing. Thanks to you all for giving him (and me) this experience. I truly appreciate the warmth in which he was received. We all then began Christmas with a "Merry Christmas toast" and helped Santa and the Mrs. (Terry and Cynthia Lawrence who make the late night delivery) fill their sleigh in their bobbing red Christmas hats. There are always lots of laughter and hugs.

Membership

First, I would like to apologize to the Dodds family for not listing you in the 2009 membership in December's issue of the *LampLighter*. If I left off anyone else, I apologize, as well. I have to collect the data from one file, transfer it to Excel, and transfer it again to Word for publication in the *LampLighter*. Then there is the "get 'er done" factor. I never mind being corrected, so let me know when there is a problem, and I will do my best to change it. All membership participation is cherished.

We hit the ground running in January. Once again, the office filled with volunteers, your neighbors, who gave up their Sunday morning to get the membership message out to you. Once you join, there is the data entry, coping, sorting, personal embossing, and mailing of each membership card. All of our events are important to us as a collective, but this one makes us stand out in the crowd. This is where we take ownership of our community. Good, bad, or indifferent, we become responsible for and to one another. We raise our own funds. Our voice is stronger in the political arena because we are self-supporting.

We are truly grateful to the creative collaboration of the membership committee. They worked for months (in their spare time after working all day) to make our membership the most desirable community membership in the city. How do they do it? I think with a passion to excel and a desire to make life better for each of you.

Art Auction

This is also the time of year that we prepare the mailer for the Art for Art's Sake Auction. Over 200 letters of invitation to participate in the auction will go out to local businesses, to give them an opportunity to add their product or service. Efforts to put the auction together begin in September. As I drink my coffee in the morning, I reflect upon the hundreds of hours volunteered to make this event such a success. It begins with our local artists that spend hours creating a special work they donate to benefit your community. The physical and mental labor of volunteers is too tedious to recount. I am usually tired of it by the time auction day arrives, until the silent auction begins and the challenge is on to get the piece I have coveted for months. If you have attended an auction, you know what I mean; if you have not, you are missing some unique entertainment. More about the expanded mission of the Art for Art's Sake Auction will be published as we near the event to take place this year on Saturday, April 10th.



Maggie Cardwell, CYCA community director, attended the annual board retreat with board members Debbie Sowell, Andy Ashby, June Hurt, Ginger Spickler, Susan Currier, Jason Word, Sharron Johnson, Kyle Gowan, Shelley Thomas, John Kinsey, and Emily Bishop on Saturday, January 23rd at First Congo.

Communications

We do not have a *LampLighter* in January because of the holidays. Be a positive voice in your community and write to the *LampLighter*. Page 2 lists the contact information. To me, it is awesome to think about the fact that our community owns a newspaper that has been in publication for 20 years and that your neighbors deliver it to your front door step free of charge.

Other neighborhood volunteers have been working for the past year to make improvements to your community website. Take five minutes to get familiar with it, and enjoy what it has to offer. Take another 2 seconds to take the poll they have worked so hard to create so that you can have yet another channel of expression. There will be a new question posted each month.

Believe it or not, your community association received a lot more praise in 2009 than criticism. I personally would like to thank all of you that have taken the time to call, write, or come by the office to convey your appreciation and offer your assistance. We received one unsigned letter of criticism and six very critical no-name phone messages last year. How nice of your community to pay for a place where you can send a letter, a person to receive and read it, and pay for a phone answering service for you to vent on. If you feel we need to address an issue, you need to let us know who you are.

Help from our friends

I cannot quite leave 2009 or begin 2010 without thanking Sutton Mora-Hayes, the executive director of The Cooper-Young Development Corporation for helping the Community Association with the many political and developmental hurdles that are presented to us. Her work continues as she searches for new and better resources to bring to our community. I would also like to thank Tamara Walker, executive director of The Cooper-Young Community Business Association for her commitment to the positive development of our business district and her creative thinking through the First Thursday Night Outs that we all enjoy and of course for her work on the Festival.

Planning ahead

January is the month for the CYCA Board retreat. Most of us who have worked for incorporated businesses view this as a trip to Vegas on the company dime. For the CYCA Board, it is a retreat from the front line of action. Once again, your volunteer board (neighbors) gives up a weekend to reevaluate what was good in the past year, what was not, and the best way to move forward. Words of encouragement are always welcome.

In Closing

If you were one of the many that I talked to, who really want to be more involved but cannot find the time, we hope that this new year will present to you the opportunities you desire.

UNDERPASS OVERVIEW

Mural project wants your feedback and mural values

BY BRAD GILMER

Our mural project for the McLean underpass is coming along nicely. Local artist, Carl Moore, has developed what we hope everyone will agree is a wonderful design concept for the project. His design utilizes symbols of our community in beautiful colors that will certainly brighten the underpass and serve as a welcome to Cooper-Young and our neighbor, the Rozelle-Annesdale District. On February 9th at the CYCA general meeting, the artist's concept will be presented, and we will solicit feedback on the project. While there remains several hurdles to overcome, the community's comments on the project will allow us to adjust as needed so that we may seek the funding and approval that we will need to complete the project. Please come and give us your input.

CYCA 2010 Memberships

BY MAGGIE CARDWELL

The following memberships were received as of January 18th. Memberships received after the 18th will be listed in the next issue. The Cooper-Young Community Association is supported by paid memberships, and anyone is welcome to join and receive the benefits of membership, which include discounts to local businesses. You can join online at www.cooperyoung.org.

Community Memberships

Alan Krayer	Angie Proctor	Cindy Ware	Donation In Honor of	Donation to support
Lyda Laneville	Steve Pulliam	Terry and Shanda Wells	Montana Pigott	General Operating
Patsy Ann LaVelle	Gabriel Raghianti III	Ralph West	from Carole Kelly	Funds
Bill and Dianne Lloyd	Martha Jane Reed	Arthur Williams	Doris Porter and Betty Slack	Roy and Eleanor Wooley
Lauren and Kevin Luke	Bobby and Tiffany Roseberry	Roy and Eleanor Wooley	from Marjorie Palazzolo	Randy Norwood
Lisa Lumb	Adam Rother	Jason and Jennifer Word		
Shannon Maris	Perry Rush	Doug Wright	Donation for the	Business Members
Scott and Renee Massey	Larry and Sandra Rutledge	John and Cathleen Zeanah	Building Fund	CYDC
Nellie McElhoe	Erich and Tina	Marguerite Zeller	(the purchase of a permanent	CYBA
Chris McHaney	April and Chris Scott	Douglass Campbell and	home for the CYCA)	Fork It Over
Hannah Miller	Wayne and Donna Sue	Lauren Pugh	Mike Parnell	InBalance Fitness
Deanna Ming	Shannon	Julianna Donahue and	Glenn Althoff	Lou's Pizza Pie
Steve Molz	Johnson Sharron	Brad Christian	Lynda C. Sowell	Memphis College of Art
Mark and Leslie Morrison	Buzz and Judi Shellabarger	Scott Cooper and Meredith	Jane Davis	Mr Scruffs Pet Care
Randall Norwood	Chaderlee and Adam	Stewart		Notary Public, June Hurt
Kristen O'Connell	Shellabarger	Lee Henderson and John	Donation to support	Otherlands Coffee Bar
Peter Owen	David Sick	Bobal	Beautification	Outback Steak House
Marjorie Palazzolo	Elisabeth Silverman	Mike Parnell and Glenn	Jennifer Franklin	Painted Planet
Jenni, Elena, and Andrew	Betty Slack	Althoff	Michael Davis	Playhouse on the Square
Pappas	Lynda C. Sowell	Dana Bottenfield	Wilma Evans	Soul Fish Cafe
Patricia Phillips	Josh and Ginger Spickler	Emily Holmes and Paul		Young Avenue Deli
Doris Porter	Janet Stewart	Haught	Donation to support	
	Suzzane Striker	Jennifer Franklin and Michael	the LampLighter	
	Glen and Shelley Thomas	Davis	David Sick	
	William True	Meredith Hennessy and Louis	Maggie and Steve Cardwell	
	Leslie and Brenda Vance	Stifter	Steve and Emily Bishop	
	Kyle or Carrie Wagenschutz	Mike Taylor and Brian Fiorno		
	Richard Wanko			

THE SURVEY SAYS

Results from the "What you want in CY" online survey

BY EMILY BISHOP

The CYCA sent an email out with a link to an online survey to find out what you want in CY. The CYCA board reviewed the results of the survey at the annual board retreat on Saturday, January 23rd. The retreat is when the board makes plans for the year, and these results will impact those plans. Thanks to everyone who took the time to answer the survey.

Question 1: **Are you a member of the CYCA?** 87 members, 11 non-CYCA members

Question 2: **Are you a renter or do you own a property in CY?** 81 own property, 12 rent

Question 3: **Have you ever been a volunteer for the CYCA?** 62 yes, 35 no

Question 4: **Do you read the LampLighter regularly?** 88 yes, 10 sometimes, 1 no

Question 5: **Would you be willing to make a small contribution to ensure the LampLighter could still be delivered free to the community?** 71 yes, 26 no

Question 6: **Should the CYCA be involved with:**

Beautification projects - 85 votes

Code Enforcement - 83 votes

Alley Clean up - 88 votes

Food Drive - 53 votes

Block Clubs - 80 votes

Bike Racks - 63 votes

Murals Under Trestles - 62 votes

History Project - 51 votes

Safety Emails - 96 votes

Event Emails - 90 votes

Lost Pet Emails - 83 votes

Peabody Playground Improvements - 51 votes

Pursuing Community Input with the Fairgrounds

Redevelopment - 72 votes

Question 7: **Should the CYCA NOT be involved with:**

Beautification projects - 16 votes

Code Enforcement - 15 votes

Code Awareness - 9 votes

Alley Clean up - 6 votes

Food Drive - 23 votes

Block Clubs - 10 votes

Bike Racks - 18 votes

Murals Under Trestles - 19 votes

History Project - 10 votes

Safety Emails - 7 votes

Event Emails - 7 votes

Lost Pet Emails - 12 votes

Peabody Playground Improvements - 23 votes

Pursuing Community Input with the Fairgrounds

Redevelopment - 18 votes

CY preps for a greener year as energy efficiency competition debuts

BY SUTTON MORA HAYES

As we have mentioned a few times in the past several months, the CYDC is participating in a new program called *The Smallest User: A Neighborhood-Based Energy Efficiency Project* in partnership with MLGW, The University of Memphis, and the Evergreen Historic District Association. The goal of this program is to create a competition between two neighborhoods to see which one can become the most energy-efficient over the life of a campaign designed to inform residents about energy-efficiency and usage reduction. The two neighborhoods are Cooper-Young and Evergreen. The time for the competition is now!

The official launch party for the competition was held January 27th at First Congregational Church, but MLGW officially started monitoring our usage on January 1st. At the event at First Congo, neighbors in CY learned about their energy usage thus far in 2010 and how that stacked up to the base year for our competition, 2008. (The partners in this program determined 2009 would not be an accurate base year due to the changes and instability in the housing market.) They also learned a little bit about what is going on in our "rival" neighborhood of Evergreen.

Most importantly, neighbors were exposed to some of the programs offered by MLGW to help homes become more energy-efficient. They were also given tips on other things they can do around their house to reduce their usage amounts. This is the first of several meetings that we'll have to show residents how much they are reducing their energy usage (hopefully) and give more information about increasing energy-efficiency around the house.

As a reminder, the specific goals for this project are:

- Improve awareness about energy conservation and energy-efficiency
- Improve participation in various energy-efficiency programs



- Lower overall utility usage in both neighborhoods by 10%
- Encourage other neighborhoods to make this an annual event
- WIN!

Please let your neighbors know about this competition! The more people in the neighborhood that are aware of the project, the better chance we have at reducing our overall energy usage and the more fun it will be. Be on the lookout for more information from CYDC and its partners. Let's make 2010 the greenest year yet in Cooper-Young!

Handyman Services

Call Justin Hurt
871-8472

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She's Catholic.**

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their daughter learns
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www.firstcongo.com
Phone 901.278.6786
1000 South Cooper
Memphis, TN 38104
Sunday worship 10:30am

The Salvation Army's Kroc Center aims to unite Memphis families

BY JEFFREY BAIN

A family pulls into a parking lot at the Mid-South Fairgrounds and heads to a state-of-the-art, 100,000-square-foot community center. Smiling families are leaving; other smiling families are entering. Welcome to the Salvation Army's Kroc Center of Memphis. A soccer game is in progress at one of the center's two NCAA-regulation fields. There's something going on at the chapel, which is also a performing arts theater. People are eating lunch at the wellness center's cafeteria, having finished a workout at the neighboring fitness center. Teens are playing basketball in the gym. The family walks to the natatorium and splash park, and another family strolls through the courtyard on the way the multi-challenge area.

At the multi-challenge area, children are playing interactive virtual games. It's straight out of a video game as they navigate through lasers, work through an obstacle course, and carry out tasks as part of the Have a Standard Foundation's C.R.O.S.S.Fire Commandos (handling Critical Rescue Operations in Severe Situations). Or maybe it's straight out of a comic book—the Commandos have a comic book of their own. Either way, it's geared as the place to be for children to have fun and stay fit. As the foundation's president, Ty Cobb, told *The Daily News*, "It's kind of like Navy Seals training for young people."

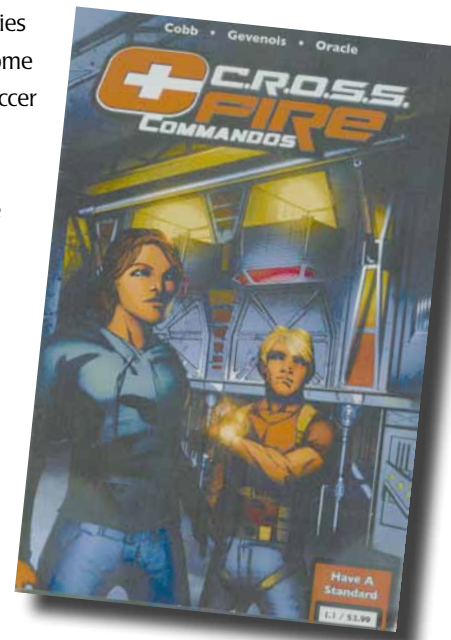
The start date is still unknown, but the Kroc Center is already reaching goals. With \$25 million in donations and an \$85 million grant from the Kroc Trust secured, contract bidding underway, and program development steadily moving forward, breaking ground is the next step toward making this community center a reality. It will be one of 25 nationwide operated by the Salvation Army and partially funded by the estate of Joan Kroc, wife of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. These Kroc Centers provide communities with cultural, devotional, educational, and recreational facilities all in one space. The Memphis center will give the Buntyn, Cooper-Young, Orange Mound, and Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhoods particularly close access to these resources.

Material aspects like the soccer fields and the multi-challenge area provide activities within a much larger service. The basic goal is to provide a safe place for people from many walks of life to meet. General membership to the center will be free, so people can be social contributors regardless of economic status. Donations and fees for additional services (e.g., practice space and special classes) will keep it that way. "Getting to know people, getting them to interact with each other as a community" is what Lt. Jason Burns, a Cooper-Young regular and the Salvation Army officer over the Kroc Center, cites as the center's social service. The center is a way to both celebrate Memphis' diversity and strengthen common bonds by bringing Memphians together.

The effort to strengthen the community also depends on responding to community needs. "Our program will be dictated by the people," says Burns. Development of the center includes spaces to grow with the community as the needs of Memphians change. Burns notes that the different needs of different people at different times means "it all comes down to the people." From early-morning workouts to evening art classes, visitors will vote with their feet, give feedback, and influence the center.

Christian principles are the basis for the Kroc Center, but being Christian is not a membership requirement. "If you have a pulse, we want to minister to you," notes Burns. He envisions the Kroc Center as exemplifying the Salvation Army's Christian principles in Memphis' diverse community in terms of providing rather than preaching—affecting people positively is an inherent "encounter with the living God." Those interested in purely social activities can do purely social activities. Christian resources are available to those who want them.

At the heart of it all is a dedication to uniting individuals, families, communities. The center's website, krocmemphis.org, has more information on how the Salvation Army and supporters make this happen. Meanwhile, a family anticipates the day to pull into that community center parking lot.



My Thai: celebrate Tsunami style

BY BEN SMITH

It's the beginning of a new year again. That means that it's time to start planning the Tsunami staff Christmas party...for 2009. Yep, in this business we don't get around to celebrating the Christmas season until the Christmas season is all over. During the holidays, we are all so busy dealing with "normal" people who have "real" jobs that we seldom even get the Christmas spirit until early the next year. When all of my various cooks, servers, bartenders, and hostesses are scrambling around making sure all of our guests stay in the holiday spirit, it leaves precious little time for us to foster the spirit in ourselves. Sure, we get a few days off around Christmas, but most of that time is spent shopping for gifts, meeting all of our various family obligations, and trying to catch up on some much needed sleep. As if.

We always schedule the Christmas party on a Sunday in mid January. My wife, Colleen, decorates the house, and I am in charge of food and beverages, naturally. Over the years, we have seen the party evolve and change. For the first couple of years, it was just open to Tsunami staff and their dates. Then we decided to extend an invitation to a few select regular customers, as well. Then we decided to open the floodgates and told the staff to invite anyone and everyone to the party. It's always nice to attend a party where you can meet new and interesting people. It's another thing when you are the host of the party and you find yourself asking every third person, "Now, who are you?" Or when people look at you (as they are opening yet another bottle of wine from your personal collection) and say "Great party! Who's house is this?"

That was the year that my son Brendan, who was around 8 years old at the time, decided to set up a zip line in the middle of the party. He secured a length of climbing rope to the second floor banister, ran it out the open front door, and tied it to the giant magnolia tree in the front yard. Then he proceeded to slide down the line, over people's heads, and through the front door into the front yard much to the delight of the Tsunami staff. But not, however, to the delight of everyone. "Oh my God!" said a strange woman to Colleen. "Where are that boy's parents?" To which my wife replied "Well, I'm his mother, and that guy holding the other end of the rope is his father."

That was also the year that we decided to rethink the invitation policy. Colleen and I didn't feel like we had to explain our parenting skills (or lack thereof) to complete strangers. Our staff already knows what twisted parents we are. And they accept us in spite of it. Or perhaps because of it.

While the beverage aspect of the party has remained the same over the years (copious amounts of whiskey, wine, and beer, plus several bottles of vodka frozen in blocks of ice and decked with boughs of holly just for good measure), the food has changed. A few years in a row, I made a big pot of seafood gumbo. One year, I convinced Marisa, my sushi chef, to roll sushi to order at the party. That was a tremendous hit, but Marisa had to work the whole time. Another year, I decided it would be great to serve oysters on the half shell. That was very well received as well. To me, there are few gustatory pleasures that can top a raw, briny oyster chased with a shot of ice cold vodka on a cold night in front of a roaring fire. On the complete and polar opposite of that joy is the stomach-turning experience of cleaning out a kitchen sink full of oyster shells surrounded by a plethora of glasses containing various levels of distilled beverages the morning after.

While my staff is not at all particular about what they drink (anything with alcohol in it is good) or eat (anything, period), there are two items that absolutely have to be at the Christmas party. The aforementioned vodka, frozen in a block of ice and bedecked with holly is a must. And no Christmas party would be complete without a big platter of Thai poppers. Last year, in a typical flash of brilliance, my wife suggested that we turn our party into a potluck affair. I was skeptical at first. After all, this party is a show of appreciation for our staff, an opportunity to raise a glass and thank them for all of their hard work and dedication over the past year. How crass would it be to ask the staff to bring their own food to the party? "Let's just try it," my wife said. "We spend all day cleaning and decorating and cooking for the party. Then everyone shows up and it's all a blur and the party's over. Why not slow down for a change and enjoy the party?" The staff rose to the occasion and brought the most amazing spread imaginable. My wife was right, of course (she always is), and that year we struck on a idea we may stay with for a while.

This recipe was plagiarized, er, adapted from a dish at one of my favorite Thai restaurants in San Francisco. The official name of the dish is in Thai and I don't remember it, frankly. I have always called these Thai poppers because you pop them in your mouth whole. This is a great item for any gathering. It's a great icebreaker for a party. It is very hands on and often gets everyone involved.

Thai poppers

1 package square wonton wrappers, cut in half from corner to corner

Jalapeno peppers, stemmed, seeded (optional), and diced into small squares

At least one medium sized root of ginger, peeled and diced into small cubes

1 bulb garlic, peeled and cut into small cubes

1 pound lap chong (Chinese sausage), cooked and diced into small cubes

1 jar roasted peanuts

1 jar Chinese plum sauce

Put the jalapenos, garlic, ginger, lap chong, peanuts, and plum sauce in individual bowls and place them on a large platter. Arrange the cut wonton wrappers on the platter, staggered, so

that they are easy to pick up. Now here's the fun part. Pick up one piece of wonton wrapper and form it into a cone. (This takes some practice, but stick with it.) Once you have your cone, add one piece each of the jalapeno, ginger, garlic, lap chong, and peanut. Top with a little dab of plum sauce, fold over the top of the wonton, and pop the whole thing in your mouth.

This dish is always met with a great deal of skepticism from people who have never experienced it before. You may have to demonstrate once or twice before it catches on. After all, it is raw garlic, and raw ginger. What happens on your palate is a wonderful thing, however. You experience each individual flavor in small waves, yet not one of the ingredients overwhelms the other. Eventually, curiosity will overcome even the most reluctant person. The sense of challenge will be too great to resist, and before you know it, everyone will be huddled around the platter giggling and popping these things like candy. Experimentation is encouraged, so each little package can be custom loaded to suit your own tastes. The rest of the party will begin to wonder why everyone is in the kitchen giggling like a bunch of schoolgirls. And you will wonder why you made all this other food when everybody is hitting the Thai poppers.



BUSINESS VOTES

CYBA elects officers for 2010

BY TAMARA WALKER

The 2010 Annual Election and Membership meeting of the Cooper-Young Business Association was held at Blue Fish Restaurant on Monday, January 18th. Forty-eight business owners came to the election to enjoy refreshments and hear Mayor A.C. Wharton speak about the ongoing progress at the Fairgrounds.

The CYBA would like to thank the following businesses for their recent donations to the Cooper-Young Police Co-Act Office for the year 2010. Thank you for keeping our neighborhood safe: Memphis Animal Clinic, Toad Hall Antiques, Albert Cook Plumbing, Cadence Bank, Fred Remmers Rug Cleaners, Southern Textile, Memphis Literacy Council, Central BBQ, Comm-Trans / Sully Corporation, Ryan Properties, Soul Fish Café, Steve Womack Insurance, and Celtic Crossing.

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the CYBA. The CYBA hosts the annual Cooper-Young Festival as well as First Thursday Night Outs. Check out our websites, www.cooperyoung.biz and www.cooperyoungfestival.com, along with our Facebook page, Cooper-Young Historic District. Below are the newly elected officers and board members for 2010:

Officers

President – Dana Whitehead, Toad Hall Antiques- Business/Property Owner

Vice President – Charlie Ryan, Ryan Properties – Property Owner

Vice President – Stephen Crump, Property Owner

Secretary – David Milem, Consulting Engineers – Business/Property Owner

Treasurer – Ann Sullivan, Comm-Trans Corporation – Business/Property Owner

Board Members

Steve Womack – State Farm Insurance – Business Owner

Katie Smythe – New Ballet Ensemble – Business Owner

Tadd Feazell – LUX Style – Business Owner

Cameron Mann –Young Avenue Sound – Business Owner

Dr. Stephen Tower – Memphis Animal Clinic – Business/Property Owner

David Meredith – The Blue Fish – Business Owner

Leah J. Roen – Attorney – Business Owner

Joann Self Selvidge – True Story Pictures – Business Owner

Worlds Apart offers décor and furnishings at outlet prices

BY LESLIE THOMPSON

Worlds Apart opened for business at 2159 Central Avenue in mid-December. The shop is the second to be offered by Bob Berry and Lucy Woodson, who also own Downtown's Worlds Away. While the company has been designing home accessories and furniture for wholesale all over the country for almost two decades, they have also been selling their designs to the public in their Downtown outlet at discounts normally reserved for retailer clients. The new outlet is located in the old Central Liquors space and is near the Cooper and Central intersection, which attracts shoppers from all over Memphis with its longstanding antique malls and galleries. The Central location provides convenience for old customers and new, who might find getting to the downtown headquarters difficult. The store offers an ever-changing selection of furniture, drapery, lamps, and decorative items that are available in a wide variety of styles ranging from classic to eclectic.

Worlds Apart

2159 Central Avenue

Hours: 10 am–6 pm Monday–Saturday

901-272-0777

Worlds-Away.com



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Poet Danielle Sellers stops by and puts pen to page at Burke's Book Store signing

BY COREY MESLER

Oxford Mississippi poet Danielle Sellers will be at Burke's Book Store on Thursday, February 4th, from 5:30–6:30 pm to read from and sign copies of her first poetry collection, *Bone Key Elegies*. The reading will begin at 6 pm.

Danielle Sellers is originally from Key West. She has an MFA from the University of Mississippi, where she held the John Grisham Poetry Fellowship. She's founder and editor of *The Country Dog Review*. She lives in Oxford with her daughter, Olivia.

Of Sellers, Beth Ann Fennelly says, "What Frost did for New England, Danielle Sellers does for the Florida Keys, shaping a world out of words that feels deeply observed, richly lived...These are poems to read and re-read and to be shared, and they are as beautiful, tragic, and ancient as the place they describe."

If there are any questions concerning this event, please contact Corey Mesler at 901-278-7484. This event coincides with the Cooper-Young First Thursday Neighborhood Night Out.

VISIBLE CHANGES

Plans and progress ring in Visible School's 10th anniversary year

BY CRISSY SMITH LINTNER

Looking forward to a year of change and growth, Memphis-based Visible School, a music and worship arts college, kicks off its 10th anniversary year with several accomplishments in hand.

In November 2009, Visible School was awarded accreditation by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). Qualifications for accreditation were measured by quality of instruction, student services, and adequate facilities based on a thorough peer-review process. Visible School will continue to evaluate and build selected areas of the college's curriculum and student services over the next five years, at which point, the school will be eligible for re-accreditation.

"We are thrilled to have received accreditation by TRACS. It is yet another step in the right direction for our college, and we are looking forward to continuing to improve upon our existing educational offerings," said Ken Steorts, founder and president of Visible School.

In addition, Visible School closed a contract to buy its new downtown campus, the former C&I Bank Building located at 200 Madison Ave. in Downtown Memphis. The college, which is temporarily located in Lifelink Memphis at the corner of Cooper and Walker, announced its plans to purchase a building in spring 2009. A six-month fundraising campaign raised \$525,000, and an anonymous donor provided the remaining \$525,000 through a matching grant. Visible School will begin renovations on the new building this year and hopes to be in their new home during the 2010–2011 school year.

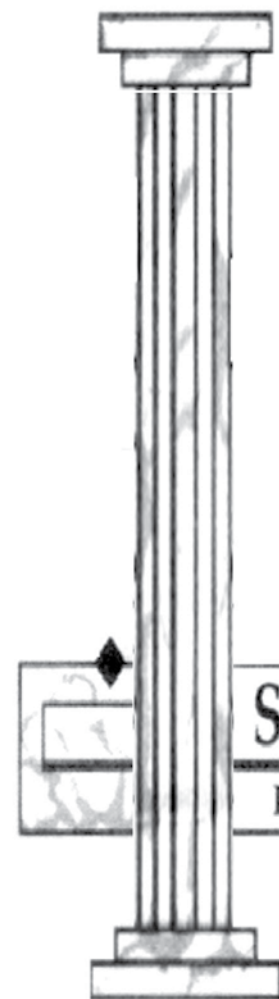
Visible School had yet another opportunity to expand upon its new status in January 2010 by launching its new web address and site, *www.visible.edu*. Accreditation by TRACS allowed the college to adopt the ".edu" domain used to signify accredited colleges and universities. The college took the opportunity to not only change the web address but to roll out an updated and interactive version of its site featuring dynamic content, an online music store, and videos that connect visitors to the site with professors at the college.

"The new site is more user-friendly, making information easily accessible not only for prospective students but also for current students, staff and donors," Steorts said.

Visible School is the vision of founder and president Ken Steorts. Started in 2000, Visible School is an independent music and worship arts college enrolling more than 100 students from around the world per year. Visible School educates students interested in careers as musicians, technicians, music business professionals, and music ministry. The accredited college offers a three-year bachelor's degree and a one-year certificate program. Visible School offers an integrated, holistic, academic, vocational discipleship and community-based degree that is rooted in Christian beliefs. In 2001, Visible School founded Visible Media Group, a nonprofit music production and artist development company.

For more information, visit *www.visible.edu* and *www.visiblemediagroup.com*.

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continued from page 1

you to communicate and share with other Cooper-Youngians (whether they are local or living farther afield these days), and follow-ups to stories that would normally end with the printed page. In fact, sometimes you may even be the person who adds the next installment of a growing story!

So what's new?

The *LampLighter* online introduces community discussion groups for the first time for the CYCA. Today, you can already comment on the information you find at the CYCA website, and you'll be able to do that here as well, but we've taken it a step further in order to provide you with your own voice online in your community. The *LampLighter* will launch with discussion groups that will allow you to engage with your community on issues that matter the most to you, find out who feels the same way you do about a particular issue, or hear a perspective you hadn't considered yet. If you already have a CYCA website account, you'll have immediate access to all the areas of the *LampLighter*, including the discussion groups; if not, you can sign up for an account online. Once you do, you will be able to post your own topic for input from the community or to share valuable or fun information with the community. Comment on other members' topics and provide your opinion, insight, or answers.

Starting in February, the *LampLighter* online will feature blogs ("web logs," journal-like articles) from the community. We will have both regular and guest spots for the blog section of the paper. Our online poll showed clearly that you are interested in contributing to our websites, and this is the perfect way. Got an interesting tale to tell, an issue to educate about, art to show off, or an opinion on an issue that you think is important to the Cooper-Young neighborhood? This is your podium!

Some stories will be carried on in the days and weeks after they are first published, allowing for follow-up even after the print edition has been read cover to cover. Stories may also take on a new life and direction as you and other members post your thoughts and provide your own additional experiences or perhaps a counterpoint to what you read online.

Life doesn't typically move at a monthly pace...Because of the nature of online publishing, when there is news in our neighborhood, we can provide more immediate coverage of that news than we can in the monthly paper edition, as well as tie-ins to stories already published when they happen.

We will also be able to showcase images, videos, and music that we can normally only write about. Want to catch snippets of the bands from the Cooper-Young Festival or see the winning runner cross the finish line in the Friday 4-Miler, the *LampLighter* online will bring it to you and more!

Are you a Facebook user? Use your account to log in and comment and share from the *LampLighter* online right to your Facebook stream!

Of course the things you've come to expect as a part of the CYCA website will all still be there as well, plus some additions we've recently added: coverage of CYCA issues, meetings, concerns, events, safety, classifieds, polls and surveys, and the new My CYCA.

So, what are you waiting for? Be a part of the adventure with us as we launch the *LampLighter* online edition! We need your input, and we need your talents! Come join us!

Questions and answers:

Q: Is the printed paper *LampLighter* going away?

A: Absolutely not! For many of you, this is a preferred format, and not everyone has access a computer or access to the internet. The paper version is here to stay!

Q: Where can I find the *LampLighter* online edition?

A: The *LampLighter* online is an official website of the CYCA online and can be found at <http://LampLighter.cooperyoung.org>.

Q: What is My CYCA?

A: My CYCA is available to all registered users of the CYCA website and can be found in the top right corner of the pages. My CYCA allows you to use your CYCA login to interact with your community online; with it you can:

- Customize your profile, including information about yourself and your interests
- Provide updates to your friends about what you're up to lately
- Connect and make friends with folks from right here in your area you might not even know lived next door
- See what your neighbors are up to whenever they post their status.

CHILLIN' WITH CHILI

Eat and greet at the 3rd Annual Cooper-Young Chili Cook-Off

BY MANDY GRISHAM

Sure, it's chilly outside, but there will be chili inside at the 3rd Annual Cooper-Young Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, February 27th! Bring your best pot of chili to enter in the contest or simply your appetite to try them all out. Proceeds will go toward lighting and beautification for the new Peabody playground. Prizes will be awarded to the block clubs with the greatest participation (cooks and tasters), so round up all your neighbors and work up a good appetite on your stroll over.

The Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, February 27th at 12 pm in the Peabody School cafeteria. Prizes will be given for the following categories: Most Unusual Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Hottest Chili, Best Block Club, Judges' Choice, and People's Choice. Judges for the competition will be Channel 5's morning news anchor, Kym Clark, Central BBQ's (and Felix Avenue resident) Craig Blondis, and Ching's Hot Wing's Neicey Bobo (also a Felix Avenue resident and Peabody Parent).

How to Enter Your Chili: Send your name, address, phone number, and email to the CYCA office (2298 Young Avenue) along with the \$15 entrance fee. We will accept the first 25 paid entries. Your chili will be judged on taste, consistency, and aroma. The People's Choice prize will be awarded to the entry that collects the most donations from tasters. You may use gimmicks, costumes, decorations, and even cute babies to draw attention to your chili! More details will be given to you once you register.

How to Taste the Chili: Tickets for tasters (that means everyone in attendance) will be available at the door for \$5. This will get you 4 samples, 1 bowl, and 1 drink. Additional samples, bowls, and drinks are available for purchase.

How to Volunteer: 5 volunteers are needed to help set up (11 am-12 pm), 5 volunteers are needed to help clean up (2-3 pm), and 5 volunteers are needed to assist the cooks during the competition (12-2 pm). Please send an email to mandygrisham@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.



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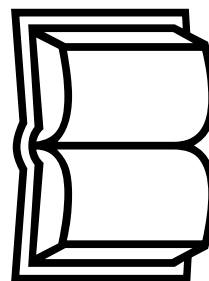
Upcoming events

Thursday, February 4th
(Cooper Young Night Out)
5:30 to 6:30 Reading at 6:00
Danielle Sellers
to read from and sign
copies of her new book of poetry
The Bone Key Elegies

Thursday, March 4th
(Cooper Young Night Out)
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Richard Bausch
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Gallery Fifty-Six explores a union of soul and machine with the sculptures of Elisha Gold

BY JANICE NABORS RAITERI

Elisha Gold's metal sculptures are all around Memphis. If you've been to the Botanic Gardens, you've no doubt noticed his huge socially-conscious flowers in My Big Backyard. He's also known in New Orleans since his solo exhibition at Johathan Ferrara Gallery. When asked about his work in metals, Eli says, "I consider myself to be a surreal biomechanical constructionist." Then, with a



smile, "Yep, I made that up...but I am a skilled metal worker and craftsman. My hands are my most important tools." He goes on, "I use the human face so the viewer can have a more personal experience with the sculpture...In my work, I express the relationship of soul and machine working as one... the complexity and compatibility of objects working simultaneously to achieve a sense of frozen motion or an overall loud silence." Eli could say the same thing about his dynamic paintings that will be featured at Gallery Fifty-Six in February's show, "Eli's Coming." Stop in and enjoy the paintings of Elisha Gold any time during the month of February. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm. Also, everyone is invited to the artist's reception Friday evening, February 5th, from 5-8 pm at the gallery, 2256 Central Avenue.

For more information, call 901-276-1251 or go online to <http://www.galleryfiftysix.com/>.

Otherlands presents an evening with Andy Cohen, William Lee Ellis, and Eleanor Ellis

BY JUDY KITTS

Saturday, February 13th, two of Memphis' finest blues players will join with visiting Eleanor Ellis for an unforgettable evening of country blues, old time music, and gospel at Otherlands Coffee Bar. All three are grounded from birth in these musical traditions and in 1991 did an exquisite recording project, *Preachin' in that Wilderness*, a collection of old time and blues songs, many of them written by Reverend Gary Davis.

The concert will reprise that album and bring their other heroes back to life: Son House, Washington Phillips, Memphis Minnie, Henry



Thomas, and Mississippi John Hurt among them. The show starts at 8 pm, and tickets are available for \$10 at Otherlands and Davis-Kidd Booksellers. This is gonna be one stompin' good time!

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CALL BACK

Who are the businesses in your neighborhood? Find out with the Insider's Guide to CY

Since the *LampLighter's* first edition in 1989, the number of businesses in the Cooper-Young community listed in the business directory has more than doubled. We have, once again, compiled a business directory for 2010, featuring the more than 200 businesses in the CY area. Much of our community's strength comes from the businesses that fit so seamlessly in our community. We want you to support them, we want you to support your neighbors who operate small businesses from their homes, and we want you to know who supports our community. In addition to the businesses that operate directly in Cooper-Young, we've included businesses that have supported the *LampLighter* in the last year and the businesses of residents. Our goal is to keep neighbors informed of who's who in the business community and encourage our fellow CY residents to support each other. If we have forgotten your business or published any misinformation, please email your corrections to lamplighter@cooperyoung.org.

ART

ARTjamN
2160 Young Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
www.artjamn.com

Artimpact
2296 Young Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104

Gallery Fifty-six
2256 Central Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-276-1251
www.thepalladiogroup.com

Art Factory
777 S. Cox Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-276-3801
www.thepalladiogroup.com

Ballet Memphis
www.balletmemphis.org
7950 Trinity Road
Cordova, TN 38018-6297
(901) 737-7322

Yvonne Bobo Studio
2164 Young Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-650-1814

Brooks Museum of Art
934 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-544-6200
www.brooksmuseum.org

Carved Designs
884 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-3847

Dixon Gallery
4339 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38117
901-761-5250
www.dixon.org

Memphis College of Art
1930 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-272-5100
www.mca.edu

Painted Planet
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Memphis, TN 38104
901-725-0054

Palladio Antiques and Art
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www.thepalladiogroup.com

Steven Russell –
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Memphis, TN 38104
901-759-1881
www.weddingtradininos.com

Underground Art
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Memphis, TN 38104
901-272-1864
www.makingmommproud.com

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Memphis, TN 38104
901-276-6538

Central Automotive
2189 Central Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-725-4766

City Wide Cab
800 S. McLean Boulevard
Memphis, TN 38114
901-722-8227

CommTrans-Sully Corp.
792 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-726-9394

Enrique's Auto Service
1037 E. Parkway S.
Memphis, TN 38104
901-722-3500

E. Parkway BP
943 E. Parkway
Memphis, TN 38104
901-761-4444

Mapco Express
2142 Central Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-274-6928

Sunshine Car Wash
Mark Johnson
2325 Young Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-725-1284

CHILDCARE

B.B.'s Day Care Center
1073 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-726-5514

Cooper Cottage Childcare
845 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-9624

God's Little Angels
1041 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-552-4558

Just for Little People
2260 Central Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-729-2825

LaShawn's Around the Clock Learning Center
826 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-272-1800

Red Robin's Academy of Learning, inc.
1000 S. Cooper Street
Memphis, TN 38104
901-272-2736
www.redrobinsacademy.com

CHURCHES

All Saints Presbyterian Church
1557 Madison Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-276-1478
www.allsaintspres.com

Divine Temple Church of God in Christ
1915 Young Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-6484

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Memphis Roller Derby seeks new home in Midtown

BY COLLEEN SMITH

For nearly two years, Memphis Roller Derby has practiced and bouted at the "House of Bruise" (the Youth Building at the Mid-South Fairgrounds), and at the end of February, we must say goodbye to it. The City plans to demolish the building sometime in March. We will be returning to our old stomping grounds, FunQuest in Collierville, for our February 13th bout. Midtown, specifically Cooper-Young, has been the ideal location for our league. It's easily accessible to our league members and our fans and definitely contributed to our success these past two seasons. We will miss the Fairgrounds, we will miss being members of the Cooper-Young Business Association, and we will miss the after-practice hang-outs in Cooper-Young.

There are several promising leads in our re-location. We've contacted WellWorx gym, the Naval Base in Millington, and the indoor sportsplex on Willet, just to name a few. The City of Memphis is also trying to do what they can to help us find a new home. Recently, the Center City Commission also took interest in our plight. I am amazed at (and proud of) the effort our league has shown in resolving the dilemma. We are not professional athletes, we are not paid to do this, and yet we run every aspect of the organization by ourselves. We all have jobs and other non-derby priorities, yet somehow manage to search the city, meet with potential property owners/managers, and begin negotiations.

Ideally we would like to stay in Midtown. If anyone knows of an available space, here are some of our requirements:

Our track alone is 88' x 53', but we need an additional 10 feet around the perimeter for insurance purposes. That would total about 7,900 square feet. However, we also need room for benches, seating, and merchandise sales so, after factoring all that in, it comes to 12,000-15,000 square feet total. An open expanse building with no support poles is ideal. I can tell you from experience that those are no fun to run into when you get blocked out of bounds during a game!



In addition to those requirements, we would need plenty of parking, good bathrooms, a skate-able floor, heat and A/C, and the ability to sell beer.

Thanks Cooper-Young for all the support you've shown us! Don't miss our next bout. I know it's a chore to leave the Parkways, but head out to Collierville and support your local roller girls! Check out both our website, www.memphisrollerderby.com, and our fan page on Facebook.

Colleen Smith runs Tsunami Restaurant with her husband, Ben Smith. She is a mother of three children, is a papermaker, and skates for two of Memphis Roller Derby's teams: the Memphis Hustlin' Rollers and the Angels of Death.

Mayor Wharton positions safety at the center of his priorities

BY PEGGY WILLIAMSON

Midtown Security Community welcomed Mayor Wharton to its December meeting to share his vision for safe neighborhoods. Hosted by HopeWorks, a Midtown non profit working to help the chronically unemployed get back on their feet, the meeting was a rousing success with over 150 people in attendance.

Mayor Wharton expressed his strong belief that safety must encompass all other priorities for the City of Memphis. When asked what his priorities are for encouraging new businesses to our City, he quickly replied that it all has to do with creating a safe environment that will allow businesses to not be distracted by worrying about security issues.

He strongly believes that all citizens must band together to keep our neighborhoods safe. In fact, he said that he calls his police precinct when he sees something in his neighborhood that is out of the ordinary and raises a question for him about what is going on. For example, cars in his neighborhood that are unknown to him and appear to be driving slowly with the occupants looking down driveways would get his eye. He encouraged citizens to be vigilant and work closely with their police precinct to extend the eyes and ears of the Memphis Police Department. Additional police officers were also an idea that Mayor Wharton supports.

The Mayor indicated that we must work diligently to address abandoned properties and those that are not regularly cared for in order to increase safety in neighborhoods. He pledged to make that a priority.

Midtown Security Community represents a coalition of neighborhoods, businesses, schools, churches, and non-profits in Midtown working closely with the Union Station police precinct to keep our neighborhoods safe. Mayor Wharton endorses the concept behind the MSC and recognized the value that similar coalitions throughout the City could have.

Join your neighbors in keeping Midtown "a safe place to live and work." Sign up to receive regular updates from the MSC blog (www.midtownsecuritycommunity.org). Attend MSC meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Specific details are available on the blog.

Help make safe neighborhoods the norm, not only in Midtown but in all of Memphis.



In addition to speaking at the MSC meeting, Mayor Wharton (r) spoke at the Cooper-Young Business Association meeting on Monday, January 18th at Tsunami. He's pictured here with Dana Whitehead (c), CYBA president, and Charlie Ryan (l), CYBA vice president.

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To Our Readers

The *LampLighter* is working with the CYCA to bring you meaningful crime information. In addition to the crime map, which details crimes within a one-mile radius of the Cooper-Young intersection, we also included a list of crimes that happened within our neighborhood. This list includes the case number, which you can use to contact the police. The crimes were reported from December 26th, 2009 to January 24th, 2010.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK ADDRESS
1001010286ME	yes	Drugs/Narcotics Vio/Misd	01/22/10	700 E PARKWAY SOUTH
1001009647ME		Burglary/Business	01/21/10	2100 YOUNG
1001009599ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	01/21/10	1200 MEDA
1001009535ME	yes	Burglary/Business	01/21/10	900 E PARKWAY S
1001008917ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Acc	01/19/10	1100 S REMBERT
1001008721ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Acc	01/19/10	2000 WALKER AVE
1001008319ME		Carjacking	01/18/10	2200 EVELYN
1001007875ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	01/17/10	2000 YOUNG
1001007568ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	01/17/10	900 S COX
1001005119ME	yes	Simple Assault/DV	01/12/10	2000 SOUTHERN
1001004888ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Acc	01/12/10	2000 YOUNG AVE
1001004702ME		MVT/Passenger Vehicle	01/11/10	1100 S COOPER
1001004651ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Acc	01/11/10	1900 OLIVER ST
1001004434ME		Robbery/Individual	01/10/10	2000 EVELYN
1001003463ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Acc	01/08/10	YOUNG AVE AND COOPER
1001002791ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	01/07/10	2000 FELIX
1001002133ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	01/05/10	1100 COOPER ST
1001001847ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	01/05/10	1700 FELIX
1001000260ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	01/01/10	2100 CENTRAL
0912014600ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	12/31/09	500 E PARKWAY S
0912013797ME	yes	Drugs/Narcotics Vio/Misd	12/29/09	800 S COX
0912013314ME	yes	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	12/28/09	800 S COOPER
0912013178ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	12/28/09	2000 WALKER AVE
0912012574ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	12/26/09	2100 CARNES
0912012562ME		MVT/Passenger Vehicle	12/26/09	1900 E PARKWAY S
0912012453ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	12/26/09	1900 FELIX



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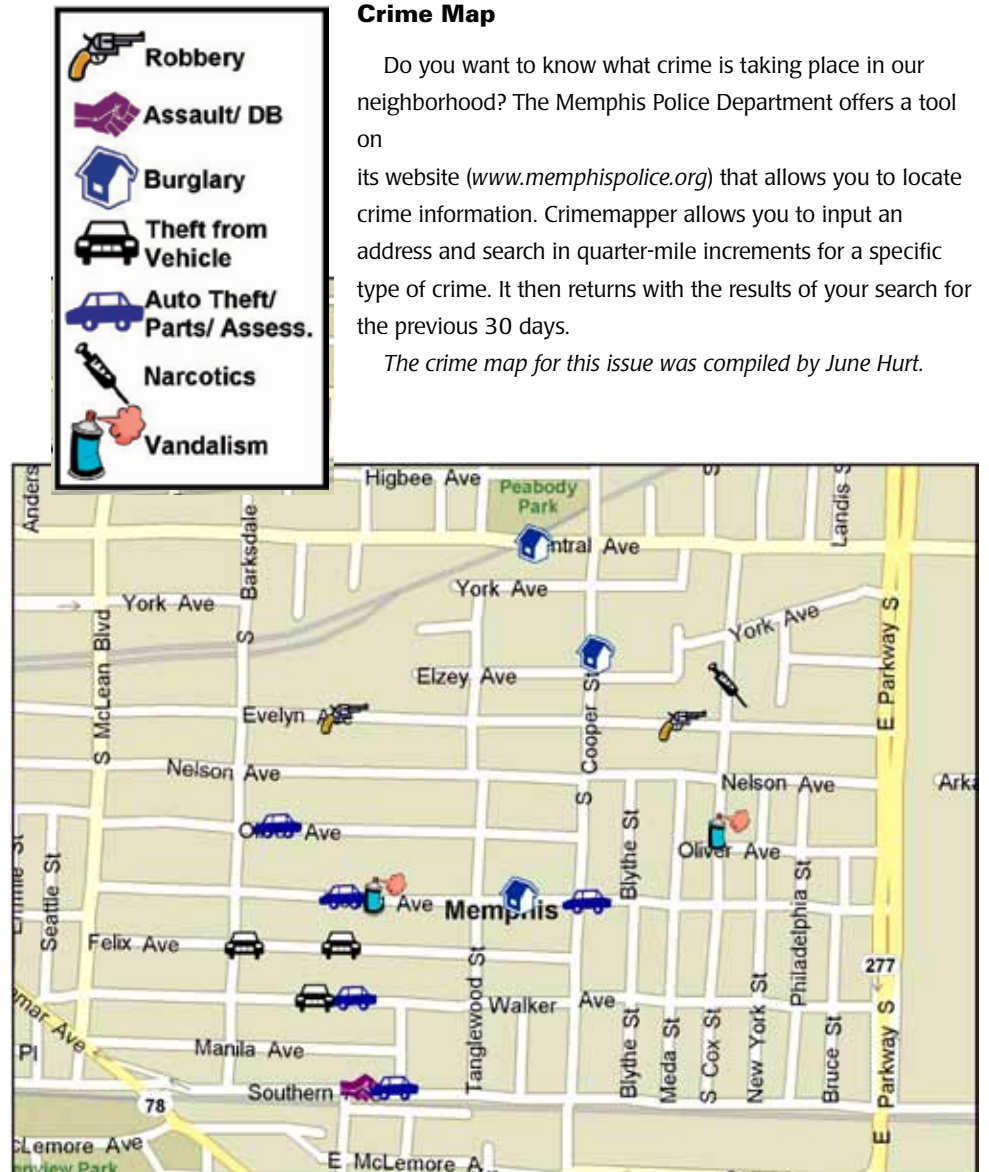
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Crime Map

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website (www.memphispolice.org) that allows you to locate crime information. Crimemapper allows you to input an address and search in quarter-mile increments for a specific type of crime. It then returns with the results of your search for the previous 30 days.

The crime map for this issue was compiled by June Hurt.



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- **Outback Steakhouse** - Free appetizer with the purchase of an entrée up to \$7.29
- **Painted Planet** - 25% jewelry discount every time you show your card. Not valid on previously discounted or sale items
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THE MOD SQUAD

Supporters see Midtown Overlay District as a stabilizing force

BY AARON JAMES AND SUTTON MORA HAYES

On Saturday, January 16th, a couple hundred or so concerned Midtowners crammed into the auditorium at Memphis College of Art to hear and share ideas on the Midtown Overlay District (MOD) currently being proffered by the Memphis Regional Design Center. MRDC Executive Director Chooch Pickard officiated the assembly, with Memphis and Shelby County Office of Planning and Development (OPD) Associate Director Mary Baker and City Councilman Shea Flinn along for official support.

The following quote from the MRDC website provides perhaps the best introduction to the proposal (reprinted here with permission):

"The Memphis Regional Design Center in conjunction with the Memphis & Shelby County Division of Planning and Development, the Midtown Memphis Development Corporation, and the Cooper-Young Development Corporation is pleased to announce the launch of efforts to develop a plan for the future of Midtown Memphis. The Midtown Plan will include an overlay district that will cover areas of Midtown that are not currently covered by the Medical District Overlay or the various Historic District overlays indicated on the (adjacent) map...While providing specific design requirements that will ensure that proper development is occurring in Midtown, the plan will give developers some predictability, increasing the vitality and economic stability of the area."

The Cooper-Young Development Corporation was approached by the MRDC to be a part of this planning process a few weeks before the meeting. The CYDC has been laying the groundwork for creating a Master Plan for the Cooper-Young neighborhood for the past couple of months as a part of its new strategic plan, adopted in October 2009. The CYDC's role will be to review the proposed changes, plans, and amendments and bring them back to the neighborhood for comment and review. They will be working with both the Cooper-Young Business Association and Community Association to ensure the concerns of our residents are addressed and that everyone has a chance to view and comment on the plan. The CYDC believes that it is important that any planning done in Cooper-Young be done within the context of what is happening in our larger area. However, its role in the process will be to ensure the needs of our neighborhood and property owners are addressed.

The MOD, assuming it is eventually adopted and signed into law by the City Council, will provide additional zoning restrictions that supersede current, more generalized zoning requirements. It may also include design guidelines for streetscapes, building setbacks, height restrictions, and off-street parking. Also proposed are provisions to limit offensive uses, inappropriate building materials, and fences. All proposed development projects within the overlay boundary would require plans reviewed by OPD, which will be responsible for notifying the public and soliciting input from all concerned parties. The ordinance will not, however, restrict the rights of property owners to demolish structures at their discretion, which would have been helpful with such recent losses as the Anderton's building.

Existing zoning requirements were described as "as loose as they can get." The bulk of Union and Cooper, for example, is currently zoned "Commercial Highway," which allows for essentially unrestricted development. Councilman Flinn described the MOD as "setting the ground rules for future developments and providing the community a voice." With functioning overlay district guidelines in place, controversies such as that currently surrounding Overton Square will hopefully be avoided, or at least minimized, in the future. The CYDC believes that this overlay plan is the

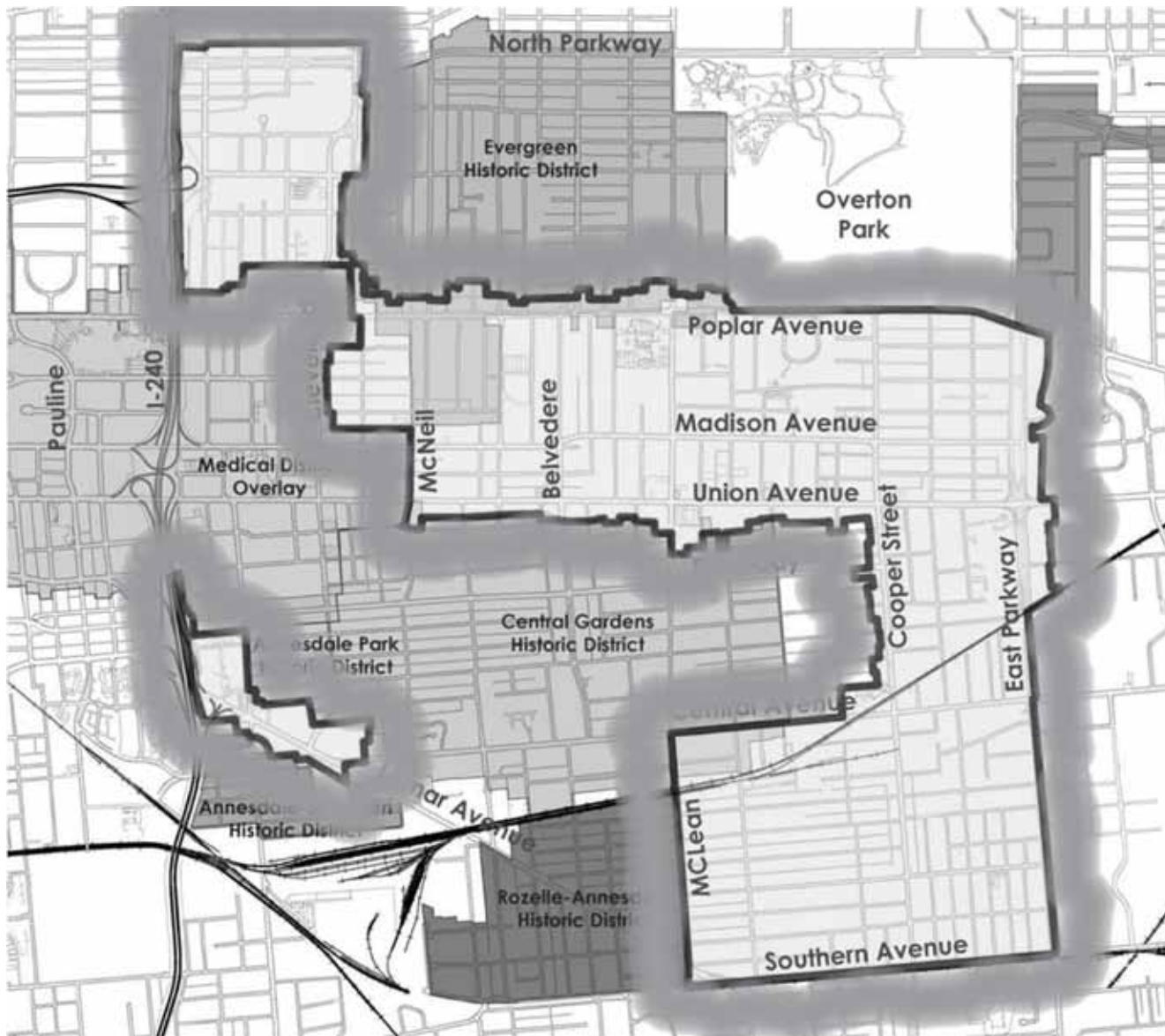
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first step in creating a true “master plan” for the neighborhood. It will not answer all our concerns, but it will provide us a starting place for the conversation.

Following Q&A, Memphis Heritage Executive Director June West shared a bit of information that caused an audible gasp to ripple through the crowd. It seems that Rhode Island-based CVS Pharmacy is interested in the First United Methodist Church property at the SW corner of Union and Cooper.

Further details and notices of relevant public forums will be passed on as they develop.

Finally, Ms. Baker reported that the developer currently interested in the Overton Square property has asked her office to remove review of their proposed site plan from the OPD February meeting agenda, but she went on to clarify that they have not, in fact, withdrawn their application entirely.

Map with highlighted areas indicating the proposed overlay district (reproduced from the MRDC website with permission).



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Math, language, society, and art give Peabody students a happy start

BY JENIFER EOFF

The University of Memphis Inspires Peabody Students to Excel in Math

On Saturday, November 7th, the University of Memphis hosted a math-based workshop for girls in the fifth grade, "Girls Rule." Peabody fifth graders, Makayla Jackson, Maliah Mayweather, and Kourtnei McNeil, were three of only twenty area students that attended the program. The girls were very excited about everything they learned, which included patterns, geometry, and Egyptian numbers. They also gave an engaging presentation about what they learned to the students in Ms. Eoff's math class.

Fall Exhibition = Impressive

Students in each grade participated in the Fall Exhibition again this year. The first Student Exhibition for this school year was scheduled for Thursday, November 12th, 2009. Creation of student projects for the exhibitions allowed students to apply their knowledge and talents beyond the classroom. With support from the community, parents, and teachers, students will plan, research, create, and display their products in an Exhibition of Student Work at all MCS sites, including Peabody Elementary. Thank you to all of the jurors who took time to volunteer and score each project!

Fifth Graders Take Over City

On December 11th, the fifth grade students participated in a field trip with a focus on financial literacy. Students spent weeks learning what it takes to run a business, to manage checking, and savings accounts, and how people and businesses form a community. Students also were involved in the employment process, which included creating a resumé, filling out a job application, and attending a job interview. They even held an election where they elected a mayor for the city. The program, JA Biztown, combines this in-class learning with a day-long visit to this fully-interactive simulated town facility. The program helps students make connections between what they learn in school and the real world.

Through daily lessons, hands-on activities, and active participation in this simulated community designed to support differentiated learning styles, students develop a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a worldwide economy (www.ja.org).

Hot Off the Peabody Press

The staff of the *Peabody Press*, the school newspaper, has just produced its first issue for the year. The newspaper staff meets after school on Wednesdays and consists of five student members and two sponsors. The 2009–2010 staff includes: Olivia Asemota (4th grade), Malachi Rosemond (4th grade), Riccquel Lofton (5th grade), Kyrrith Jones (4th grade), and Jerestina McNeal (4th grade) pictured here.



The Peabody Press is in its third year of publication and was started with a grant from the Junior League of Memphis. The newspaper is created by the students and features articles, a comic strip, and even an advice column!

Spelling Bee

On Tuesday, December 15th, you could feel the tension in the school cafeteria. This was the day of the annual, school-wide Spelling Bee. After an hour and a half and a heated battle of words all the way to the high school level, fifth grader Kourtnei McNeil was declared the Peabody spelling champ. Dellani Wright came in second with Aaron Middleton placing third. Congratulations to all of these students on a job well done!

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Trying to stay fit? Out with the old and in with the New Year's Resolutions

BY STAR RITCHEY

There's nothing better than a new year. A new year means we can start over, right? Right! The starting over couldn't come at a better time—after Thanksgiving and Christmas, when most of us have let our diet go a little, are having a hard time getting to the gym, and are suddenly feeling frustrated and sluggish. In comes the New Year's Resolution. If you're like the majority of the population, your resolution has something to do with getting fit, losing weight, and improving your overall health. However, with February rapidly approaching, most of these resolutions are probably already forgotten.

Some studies show as many as 20% are broken in the first two weeks, and 80% are broken within the year. Each year, it seems that New Year's Resolutions are made simply to be broken. To avoid being in the majority and breaking your New Year's Resolutions, consider why this might be happening and do the opposite.

Most people have good intentions but after a few days or weeks of seeing no results, the bad habits start coming back. Unrealistic goals are a large part of the problem. I've heard people resolve to go to the gym twice a day, give up all desserts "forever" and so forth. When you fail at doing this just one time, you give yourself the excuse to give it all up. Another problem is the way people view exercise—as punishment for their bad eating, boring, painful, and time consuming, just to name a few. Why not look at exercise as a stress reliever, a reward for long work days, a way to boost your energy and mood, and possibly even your "me time."

Here are some steps you should follow to help you achieve your resolution:

1. Set a goal that is realistic and timely: you cannot expect to see drastic changes in days or weeks, however, you can expect to see small changes in a short amount of time.
2. Decide if you're able to hold yourself accountable: if you're unsure you're able to do it alone, find a peer. It is much easier to stick with an exercise program if you have someone holding you accountable. For you, this may be a Personal Trainer, a group class, or even your own family.
3. Schedule your exercise: if you're not used to having exercise as part of your daily routine, you will need to schedule it. Write it on your day planner, put a sticky note on your fridge, plan to meet a friend at the gym, or schedule an appointment with a trainer—whatever it takes, just make sure it's on your schedule, and treat it as any other appointment you can't miss.
4. Track progress: measurable goals, such as losing weight, lowering blood pressure, running a race, etc. are easy to track. Get a fitness journal (I often recommend one with a place to track your daily food intake as well as daily fitness), and write your goal on the front so you see it daily.
5. Reward yourself: if you are meeting your small goals, you should reward yourself. If you've been eyeing a new pair of running shoes, something for yourself or house, or even a nice dinner out on the town, make this a reward for meeting one of your goals. It will make it all the more worth it.

If you're confused about where to start, schedule an appointment with a trainer to assess your needs and help guide you in the right direction. The most important thing to remember is not to give up. Despite setbacks, which are sure to come, make sure you keep going in the right direction or you will find yourselves with the same resolutions and another year behind next January.

Here's to a healthy and happy New Year!

Star Ritchey is a certified personal trainer at Inbalance Fitness.

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Ratios aren't just math, they're an adventure

BY BILL BULLOCK

"The tattoo to teeth ratio for those folks is pretty high."

While a comment like that is inappropriate on many levels, ratios are nonetheless an amusing and sometimes telling way of identifying where our priorities lie.

Many folks I know are getting more and more engaged with the condition of our environment, the viability of our community, and the health of their families. Those concerns are manifested in behaviors that cannot only impact the world around us, but our individual well-being. Some behaviors are complementary to one another, others contradictory. Our progress towards environmental, community, and family-related objectives can be measured by some rather unconventional ratios.

Below are several ratios that should at least cause us to ponder our priorities and judge if we are truly acting in a way congruous to our goals.

Joe's/Mapco: This ratio measures alcohol to gasoline purchases. While a higher ratio may indicate good environmental stewardship, it may also indicate you are getting too high a percentage of your daily caloric intake from liquid. This ratio is generally higher for Mid-towners, who tend to both drive less and drink more. Generally, higher is better, but it is most beneficial making this higher through lowering the denominator.

MLGW/PITI: This ratio compares monthly energy bills to monthly housing expenditures. The lower, the better. We have a lot more control over the numerator on this one. Just remember, the most energy-efficient setting on your thermostat is off. (Money paid to Plus One or Green Power Switch gives bonus points here.)

Y/i: This is a more complex ratio. It has to do with expenditures on YMCA, yoga, or other health-related pursuits compared to expenditures on internet, phone, cable, dish, and more sedentary activities. Generally, higher is better from a health standpoint. However, a case can be made for "i" expenditures that may have health benefits (Wii fit) or ones that may keep us from burning as much gasoline (Netflix). An additional factor is that some "i" expenditures may have a detrimental economic impact on the community if the dollars could have stayed closer

to home. One dollar spent within a mile from home is likely a better overall investment than 90 cents on an internet purchase.

Rockport/MPD: This is a very simple ratio that compares expenditures on shoes (real shoes you can walk in) versus how much you pay in parking or traffic violation fines. This one is proven to have a correlation coefficient of .93 when predicting miles walked/run versus miles driven. Aim for a high number on this one.

Glidden/Gate City: In your home improvement budget, how much is cosmetic and how much is more practical? Here's an area where you'd like to see more expenditures generating returns in areas like energy savings (insulation, weather stripping, compact fluorescents, etc.) than just aesthetics. This ratio should be kept low, although that caulk expenditure may yield an erroneous result depending on place of purchase.

Cart/Bin: How many pounds per week are in your green garbage cart versus your tan recycling bin? We should not only keep this ratio low but keep both top and bottom of this fraction as low as possible. The corollary to this is the disposer/compost ratio. Minimize that one as well, though you may become estranged from your plumber.

Playhouse/Blockbuster: In the arts and entertainment world, if you live in Midtown Memphis, there are lots of options. This ratio measures time spent at local theaters, museums, galleries, and live music venues versus time in front of your TV screen. The sky is the limit here. Hint: You can economically increase this ratio by keeping an eye on the local art openings (particularly the ones with wine and cheese) and patronizing the Levitt Shell.

Wolf River/Amazon.com: A less intuitive metric, this number represents the amount of money spent on local conservation activities versus how much is spent on stuff. Keep this one high.

Table/Taco Bell: Particularly if you have kids, try to keep your hours around the dinner table higher than the ones in a fast food restaurant. Too many benefits here to list.

And finally, the Tanning Bed/Floss expense ratio: This ratio gauges spending on things that make you look better versus things that actually make you healthier. Though it is said, "Half the work that is done in this world is to make things appear what they are not," the long-term benefit is in keeping this one low. And doing so is a good way to bolster the denominator of the tattoo to teeth ratio, as well.

Bill Bullock is a board member of the Evergreen Historic District Association and is an employee of MLGW.

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Make your spring cleaning green cleaning

BY SHARRON JOHNSON

Spring is just around the corner, and we all know what that means. For myself, it is a time to devise a plan for decluttering the inside and outside of my home. The notion of decluttering popped into my head while walking the dog after the holidays and noticing all of the trash to be picked up and promptly added to our landfills, not to mention the extra hazardous waste such as paints, batteries, etc. My household is always on a search for ways to implement the three "R's" into our belief system. What are the three R's? Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle of course.

It seems like when spring rolls around, I am compelled to clean out the shed. That is the place I fondly refer to as the "holding tank." For some people, it is their porch or the back yard, way over in the corner where they cannot see it. You know who you are, nudge, nudge, Mom, friends. It always seems that I have leftover paint. I know I change the décor a lot around the house, and I do know how to estimate paint usage, but there is always leftover paint. What I do first is look for anyone to reuse my remnants, such as those same friends and family. The second thing I do is post it on Freecycle or Craigslist. Most people have heard of these two websites. If you have not, then it is time to include these two forums into your purging process. These sites offer a wonderful way to find homes for your unwanted paint or anything else you no longer have a use for. The last, and I mean the last thing I do is dispose of the paint. Unfortunately, we eventually will have to use the City, but not in your rolling dumpster. Although latex paint may be left on the curbside, they will only pick it up if the paint has dried up. If the paint is still in liquid state, the City recommends that you keep it in a secure location with the lid open to dry it out, then place it onto the curb. The Memphis and Shelby County Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is a safe way to dispose of many types of materials, not just paint. There is a limit of 15 gallons or 100 pounds per household, per visit. The facility is located at 6305 Haley Road, 38134. It is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the hours are 8:30 am-1 pm. For a map and a complete list of hazardous waste accepted, look at the City of Memphis' website or contact the Mayors Citizen's Service Center.

Reuse to eliminate clutter around your home

After a major construction project at my home, I noticed how many empty five-gallon buckets were leftover. As I mentioned before, I tried to give them away, but to no avail. Instead, I reused them as storage containers in the, "holding tank." These containers make excellent portable storage for, you guessed it, more décor changes. I can use one to carry tools and supplies from task to task, store grass seeds, etc. I wish I had put more thought into the waste that the sheetrock mud buckets created and used the paper boxes instead. Live and learn. The same rings true for batteries. Our household tries to use rechargeable batteries, but there is always a need for an alkaline battery. They are everywhere. Personally, I collect our dead alkaline batteries and I store them in the "holding tank" until I make my next trip to our local Lowe's or Home Depot. They will take them for disposal. (I want to implement a drop off for alkaline batteries in our neighborhood in the near future.) They will also take fluorescent bulbs, which I recommend to never put in your rolling dumpster. Recycling of rechargeable batteries and cell phone batteries are another story. You can take these to a store like Batteries Plus or where you buy your cell phones. Do not dispose of batteries in your rolling dumpster. They contain ingredients such as mercury and other heavy metals that harm our environment. There are all sorts of environmental protection websites to research this topic. Another way to reuse is to donate to a nonprofit, such as MIFA. They will accept used or new household items, clothing, or office equipment, which they, in turn, sell at a low price in the MIFA store. You can donate your empty copier or ink-jet ink cartridges and cell phones to Open Arms, as well. They will ship them for recycling, and, in exchange, the Open Arms Care Foundation receives money and donations for their clientele. There are a plethora of nonprofits to choose from.

Recycle to declutter your space

I am not speaking of your every-week curbside bin. When spring rolls around, so do the new fashions. This means it is time to evaluate my excess clothing and what I consider out of style or, dare I say, does not fit anymore. Ugh, too many sweats during all those holiday parties. Needless to say, I use the same process I mentioned before. I ask friends or family first, then post them on free recycling websites, then subsequently use a nonprofit donation facility. This process works for all types of excess clutter like furniture, appliances, and toys. I have noticed when appliances, metal, steel, or even lumber is placed on the curb, more likely than not, someone will come by to pick it up for reuse or resale. Think about reduction this way, it provides an income for someone who needs it. This is recycling too.

City Beautiful has a handy downloadable book called, *A Citizens Guide to a Cleaner Memphis*. Go to the city's website, www.cityofmemphis.org. Click on "Community" in the "I want to" box; then, click on "Learn about the City Beautiful Commission" and look for the green box on the left margin.

For more helpful information, contact or visit:

Mayors Citizens Service Center –
901-576-6500

www.cityofmemphis.org,

Battery facts – www.ehso.com,

Duracell battery – www.duracell.com,

MIFA – www.mifa.org,

Open Arms – www.openarmscare.org,

Goodwill – www.goodwill.org,

Salvation Army – www.salvationarmy.org,

Freecycle – www.freecycle.org,

Craigslist – www.craigslist.org,

Lowe's Home Improvement Center –
www.lowes.com/contactus, and

Home Depot – www.homedepot.com
(click on eco options).



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Keep your information safe during the 2010 Census

BY SUSAN JOHNSON

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way, as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address, including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is, how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice: If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card, or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

Remember, no matter what they ask, you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, you don't have to answer anything at all about your financial situation. The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is not with the Census Bureau.

And remember, the census bureau has decided not to work with Acorn on gathering this information. No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

It's not too late to help your kids concentrate

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

We are about halfway through another school year. The New Year has passed and although still in winter, students are beginning to think about Spring Break and beyond. The key is to keep everyone focused on the remainder of the school year. At this crucial point in the year, it is important to remember that our families are first and foremost our children's role models. Children learn from their family's daily conversations, sharing of common interests, taking vacations together, and through their family's spending a lot of time together.

Throughout my 20+ years in education, I have met many outstanding educators. One of the best is a colleague of mine named Adam Coleman, a 6th grade teacher at Downtown Elementary School. I have asked Mr. Coleman to provide insight on how he advises parents keep their children focused on the end run of the school year.

Here are Mr. Coleman's "Top Parent Tips."

Have regular conversations. Discuss school with your children. Go past one-word answers, and find out what your child really thinks and feels about school. Ask specific questions like, "What did you like best about school today?"

Get organized. Have a separate folder for each subject with one side for notes, papers, and handouts and the other for homework or papers to be returned. Make sure your child has a planning/agenda book to write homework assignments and to communicate with teachers.

Keep track of homework. Parents should motivate, monitor, and model good homework practices. Designate a time and location for doing homework and checking homework, and allocate a reasonable amount of time to do it. If no homework, read your child a book.

Share information. Inform your child's teacher of issues like health conditions, family difficulties, personality traits, learning styles, and special interests. Sharing changes in these throughout the year creates a collaborative relationship that greatly benefits everyone.

Instill a love of reading. Undoubtedly, one of the most important quotients in determining a child's educational success is their ability to read. Parents need to model reading to show its value. Visit the library often, subscribe to kids magazines, and spend time reading together.

Be a realist. Have a realistic attitude about grades. Not every child will ace every test and some, realistically, based on their abilities, will ace few. Instead, use grades as a tool to understand which skills your child has mastered and where he/she needs additional help.

Avoid jumping to conclusions. Not every poor grade is due to a lack of trying or laziness. Factors such as undiagnosed learning disabilities, social problems, not feeling well, or just a lack of interest in a subject can contribute to undesirable grades.

Set goals. Talk to your child about his/her future by setting both short- and long-term educational goals. Short-term goals may be finishing a book report or semester project while long-term goals should include plans for trade schools, community colleges, and universities.

Model volunteering. There are many opportunities to get involved at school, such as tutoring, parent-teacher organizations, or chaperoning field trips. Beyond school, model community volunteerism by helping support education wherever and whenever possible.

Hopefully these suggestions will help you keep your child focused for the remainder of the school year. I know Mr. Coleman has taught me a lot! Please remember, you will always be your child's first and best teacher.

Adam Coleman is a National Board Candidate and a highly recognized elementary teacher at Downtown Elementary School. Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board Certified Teacher with over 20 years educational experience. If you have any questions or comments, please email Dr. Maxwell at maxwellj01@k12tn.net.



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Ending animal abuse starts by teaching the children well

BY TRISHA GURLEY

As I write this, 2009 has faded away. It has not been a banner year for the animals of this city. Yet with every new year comes renewed hope and maybe a renewed sense of empathy and compassion for animals and people. In that vein of compassion, we can help raise a generation of people who not only would never engage in animal cruelty, but also will actively fight it.

My cat, Milton, is my only child so far, but most of my friends are parents, and I am an aunt to two young nephews. Back in October, the photo of a starved dog named Justice was plastered on every newscast and in the newspaper—which is good in that it brought attention to the horror within the Memphis Animal Shelter. But it was so sickening for me to see, and the image is forever burned in my mind. How would such a picture affect a child? In this age of violence in TV, movies, and games, would it affect them at all?

It's commonly known that people who grew up to be violent criminals often started out torturing and abusing animals. Jeffrey Dahmer, David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz, and Ted Bundy are the more popular examples of ones who abused animals before they turned to people. Studies have found that homes in which animal abuse occurs also have a high rate of child abuse as well. Most abuse of animals, of course, stemmed from a parent, but about a quarter of abused children will turn their pain and anger towards animals—the only beings more helpless than themselves.

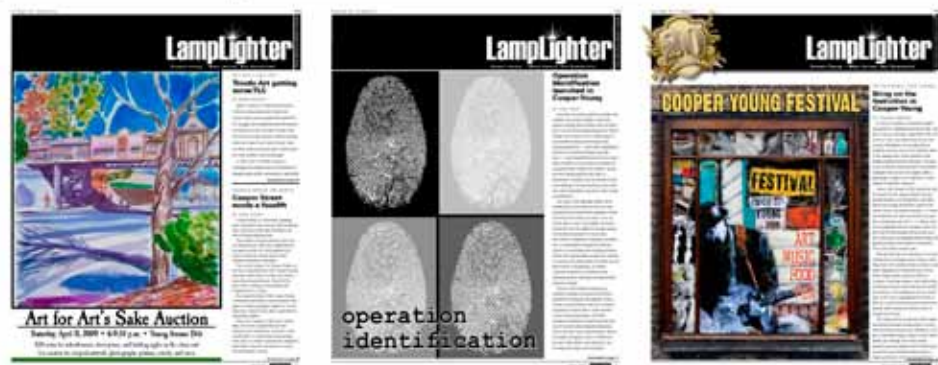
While I still can't fathom why anyone would mistreat an animal, I could not even begin to understand it when I was a kid myself. Stories of animals in pain, even fictional ones, would put me in tears (I still haven't watched *Dumbo* or *Bambi* in their entirety). I'd think most concerned parents try to prevent their child from seeing or hearing about animal cruelty, be it in real life or depicted on TV. But what can a parent do when a child either hears about or inadvertently witnesses an animal being treated poorly?

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has several guidelines on their website on how to discuss animal cruelty with children. Of course, you know your child best and can discern what he or she can tolerate on the subject.

- Children as young as two can be taught that things they do can make people—and animals—sad. Three-year-olds can start learning how they would feel if someone treated them the way they treat animals, in both good and bad ways.
- Children around four and six are learning basic concepts of morality and fairness. They can learn that animals depend on us to be kind. Acknowledge that animals can be hurt, but do not go into details of just how a person can hurt them.
- Ages six to ten can handle a deeper discussion about why some people hurt animals, but again, the more vicious details don't need to be included. Ask them how witnessing violence towards animals affected them, and reinforce that it is the wrong thing to do. Encourage them to report any animal violence to you, another trusted adult, or a police officer.
- Children from 10 to 14 are still strongly affected by violence. This is a vital time to model compassionate animal behavior to kids. Tell them what you would do in a similar situation. Encourage them to stand up if they encounter others abusing animals, ensuring them that they have your full support. Peer pressure is heavy during these years, and your child's assurance that they will have your support can make all the difference in stopping animal violence in front of friends.

Direct your younger children to the ASPCA's website for kids, www.animaland.com. It features positive advice, resources, kid-appropriate stories, and interactive games about animals and those who love them. Let's make 2010 the year of compassion!

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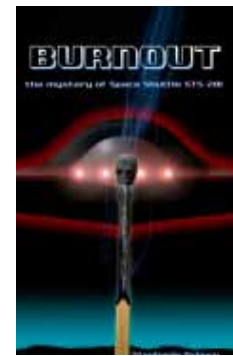
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Space shuttle secrets stir suspense in *Burnout*

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

Since becoming a published (and now award-winning) author, I have met some wonderful and highly talented authors within the Mid-South area and even beyond. One such author is Stephanie Osborn, who resides in Huntsville, Alabama and is the author of the book *BURNOUT: The Mystery of Space Shuttle STS-281*. After listening to Stephanie's pitch about the book during the course of attending several seminars and sci-fi conventions, I finally decided to give her book a try. To put it quite bluntly, I was not disappointed at all. If you are a lover of all things NASA and sci-fi, then this book is right up your alley. What makes the book even better is that Osborn is, literally, a rocket scientist (she used to work for NASA).



After a space shuttle crashes during its return to Earth, the novel's protagonists, "Crash" Murphy and Dr. Mike Anders, both employed in the scientific world for their respective countries (Murphy for USA and Anders for Australia) decide to research the reasons behind such a terrible loss. What they discover is more than they bargained for, for not only do they realize the crash is not what it appears to be, but it also answers a philosophical question we have been asking for years: "Are we alone?" Secrets created by the government, lies told by friends and enemies, and the unexplained now suddenly explainable are all within this gem of a page-turning book.

Osborn, from the beginning, straps you within the seat of the shuttle and refuses to let you go until the very end that will have you scratching your head and re-reading the pages several times just to make sure you did read it right. She tells a story that truly could and can happen within the realm of what we know in science and space exploration and was even "questioned" about her accuracy in describing the shuttle's crash by higher ups. Her writing makes you feel as though you are there with Murphy and Anders as they piece together the entire work behind a supposed tragedy. Although Osborn is retired from her scientist days, she still enjoys what she is so obviously good at in teaching high school students the mysteries and fully experimented theories of science.

I will admit that, once I finished reading the book, I emailed my good friend with questions and my own pieced-together theories about certain events of the book, events such as "Why did Dr. Blake continue to take water and beef jerky down that tunnel almost every day?" I thought I had it right but after reading her responses, I was completely off track while giving her a good laugh. Nevertheless, that question and many more are in my mind and will stay there for quite some time until the sequel is released; I, too, want to know the secrets behind the *BURNOUT*.

Dr. Allison Stiles, FAAP
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Memories of Libertyland prevail as the park fades into the past

BY AARON JAMES

1976 was a banner year for Memphis. It was the year I officially became a teenager, Elvis played what was to be his final Memphis concert at the Mid-South Coliseum, the Lawler-Dundee feud was at its zenith, and President Ford presided over dedication ceremonies for the new Main Street pedestrian mall downtown. I think there may have been some event of national significance that year too, but I can't for the life of me recall, because '76 was also the year my very own amusement park opened right down the street!

I remember telling my friends, as we anxiously awaited opening day, "Man, I'm going to Libertyland every five bucks I get!" A few years later, my high school sweetheart's mother bought us a pair of season passes. Every Saturday day was spent playing skee-ball, feigning machismo on the Pippin, and stealing kisses on the Flume Zoom. (Every Saturday night meant dinner with her family at Bill and Jim's and rockin' the Back in Black at Summer Skateland, both of which are also now gone, but that's another story.)



What remained of Libertyland at press time, as seen from the southeast corner.

Although I later came to see the writing on the wall, Libertyland closed while I was traveling the country in pursuit of slightly more substantial adventures. I was 1,200 miles away, in a tiny upstate NY hamlet of less than 6,000, when the Pippin was sold. I know this because even their tiny paper ran the story of the two guys who paid \$2,500 for what they thought was just a car from Elvis' favorite roller coaster, flabbergasted to discover they had gotten the whole kit and caboodle. Now that I once again find myself right down the street, the flood of memories vie for my attention as I try to share the following update:

According to information provided by City Councilman Jim Strickland, the work schedule is as follows:

The entire former Libertyland site was to be cleared by 01-15-10.

The youth building, cattle barns, arena, petting zoo, and horticulture building are to be cleared by 03-15-10.

The Pipkin building, swine barn, fair office, and fair shop are also to be cleared by 03-15-10, but as part of a separate contractual phase.

All demolished sites are to receive seed and sod by 04-30-10.

Although graphically included on the phasing map as part of "Package #1" demolition, the old fire station at the corner of Southern and East Parkway was still standing at press time. As you can see in the photo, many of the trees on the former Libertyland site have been saved, although there was no effort to protect the roots from compaction caused by the heavy machinery, which places their continued health in jeopardy.

There is no mention in Jim's information of the Creative Arts Center building, nor is it graphically included on the phasing map. Demolition of the Coliseum is currently on hold, with its long-term fate still uncertain. According to the web site "savethepippin.com", they currently own the actual Pippin coaster, and how the City proceed with this delicate issue remains to be seen.

For a more complete recounting of the history and demise of Libertyland, visit: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertyland>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zippin_Pippin, and <http://www.rememberlibertyland.com/>.

YES!

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center receives \$50,000 to expand youth services

BY WILL BATTS

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) has received a \$50,000 grant from an anonymous donor to enhance the youth services division of the organization. The program, entitled Youth Empowerment Services (YES), provides emergency assistance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teens and young adults who are in need of financial, medical, psychological, and legal support.

The grant could not have come at a better time. Since its inception, the YES program has had more youth in need than the program could financially support, especially with the limited staff and volunteers able to commit to the program. Volunteers and staff admit to providing support from their own pockets to compensate for the large number of youth needing help. Plans to increase the capacity of the program were already underway because the number of young adults in need of the program grew sharply in the past year, specifically homeless or displaced youth in crisis. YES also encompasses the other youth-related services at MGLCC: our Queer as Youth support group for 14-19-year-olds, as well as consultation with other agencies to ensure the well-being of other lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth in the Memphis area.

The suicide rate among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender teens is 2-3 times that of heterosexual youth. The rates of homeless youth are much higher, as well. We can't continue to let that happen in our community. In the past few months, we have barely been able to keep up with the number of kids who need our help. We haven't had the resources or the staff to provide for all of these kids. Thankfully, this grant will provide the next steps in ensuring a better future for all youth in need of our services.

The next steps will be to create a comprehensive program to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth that will connect them with food, temporary or transitional housing, legal advocacy, medical aid, and more. Additionally, MGLCC will expand its emergency food pantry and clothes closet to meet the needs of youth in crisis. MGLCC had planned to create another paid staff position at the center to assist with the program's many necessities. This grant will help make that a reality.

Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is a mechanism for change in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people to facilitate long-term positive growth in themselves and in the community of the Mid-South. For general information about the Memphis gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, you can call 901-278-6422 or email info@mglcc.org.



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BY AUNT CICELY

Hiya, sweeties! Well, it's February, and love is in the air! At least I think that's love...could just be my neighbor Gladys' cheap perfume. Anywho...since it is a month for lovers, we'll kick things off with news of a wedding I missed a few months back.

Robin Steele and Mike Harris of South Cox tied the knot at the Memphis Metal Museum on November 14th. Lots of friends from the neighborhood were on hand to celebrate with the happy couple, who enjoyed a two-week honeymoon in Australia.

And while we're talking down under, the fearless former leader of Revolutions Community Bike Shop, **Anthony Siracusa**, wrote us from Melbourne around Christmas time to report in on his travels as part of the Watson Fellowship he won to study bicycle cultures around the world. He's visited Denmark, Amsterdam, and Australia so far, and in the next six months, will travel to China, Guatemala, Mexico, and Colombia.

A little (okay, a lot) closer to home at Christmas time, Josh and **Ginger Spickler** of Nelson Avenue (along with several of their friends from Neighborhood Church) hosted the 2nd Annual "Think Globally, Party Locally" event on December 19th to raise money for global clean water initiatives. This year, more than sixty friends from Cooper-Young and beyond joined in the fun and raised over \$600 that went directly to Living Water International for water projects around the world. 'Ol Aunt Cicely always likes a good party, but I can certainly get on board with partying for a cause!

But a party just for partyin's sake is good too...Moving on into the new year, **Jacinda and Sam Johnson** of Oliver hosted the Prosperity Dinner 2010 for their Celtic Pint Night regulars group of **Rene' Erickson, Casey Cummings, Rodney Nash, Aaron James**, and Jacinda's longtime hometown friend, **Jamie**.

And then there are the folks who won't be partying anytime soon! Jason and Jennifer Word of Nelson, along with big sister **Avery**, welcomed baby boy **Paxton Clay** on December 28th. For those of you keeping track of such things, Nelson Avenue between Cooper and Barksdale is about

one boy short of being able to field its very own 5-and-under football team!

Finally, in the kudos department, **Michael Taylor** of New Elzey has joined the local chapter of the Interior Design Society, a group of interior designers and decorators specializing in residential design. Michael, 'ol Aunt Cicely could use a little help at her crib...what can you do with an avocado green Naugahyde love seat, my collection of shot glasses from all fifty states, and a life-size velvet Elvis? Call me!

Send all the Cooper-Young news that's fit to print to auntcicely@gmail.com. Don't forget the pictures!



5



6



3



7



1



4

5. Avery and Paxton Clay Word
6. Robin Steele and Mike Harris wedding
7. Joe Currier and Damien Kovarik
8. Anthony Siracusa



2



8

1. Rene' Erickson, Casey Cummings, Rodney Nash, Aaron James, Jacinda and Sam Johnson and their friend Jamie
2. Heather Conklin with baby Calvin, Rachel Lyles, and Susan Currier
3. Michael Taylor
4. Ginger Spickler and Kate Lareau



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